



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

May 2, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- MAY 4 West High School Mattress Fund Raiser. Proceeds benefit the band.
<http://bit.ly/beds4westhsband>.
- MAY 4 Veterans breakfast at the Elks Lodge #160, 5600 Lonas Dr. Knoxville. East Tennessee Public Broadcasting Service is sponsoring this breakfast for Veterans and their guests. Door opens at 0800, chow line opens at 0830, dismiss at 0930. If you are interested in sponsoring a breakfast on the first Saturday of the month, please contact United Veterans Council of East Tennessee at 865/604-4443.
- MAY 6 Annual Medal of Honor dinner at the Foundry located at 747 World's Fair Park. They are honoring a Marine this year, Sgt Elbert Kinser from Greenville, TN.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbert_L._Kinser . www.etvma.org
- MAY 9-19 *Mary's Wedding* at the Flying Anvil Theatre. This is a story of true love set against the backdrop of WW1. Details may be found at www.flyinganviltheatre.com or call the box office at 865/357-1309.
- MAY 11 Commissioning Ceremony for the Rocky Top Battalion, University of Tennessee Army ROTC. 4pm at the Student Union Auditorium, 1502 Cumberland Ave. Knoxville. RSVP to clongmi4@utk.edu by May 3rd.
- MAY 11 Veterans breakfast at 8am at the Clinton Community Center. Doors open at 0800.
- MAY 11 Fishing tournament to benefit Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless. Details are on their website at <https://tvchomeless.org/>
- MAY 18 Sale at Treasure's Jewelers in Foothills Mall. 10% of proceeds will benefit the 2019 Women Veterans Summit.
- MAY 18 Hardship Hill Competition <https://dirtybirdevents.com/hardship-hill-ocr/> . _Proceeds go toward Operation Enduring Warrior.
- MAY 25 East Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries Memorial Day Grave Flag Placement at 8:30 a.m.
Lyons View Cemetery Gov. John Sevier Cemetery
5901-Lyons View Pike 2200 E. Gov. John Sevier Hwy.
Knoxville, 37919 Knoxville, 37920
- MAY 27 ETVMA Reading of the Names 2019. Beginning at sunrise, volunteer readers will read aloud each of the 6267 names on the granite columns of the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial. Readers are needed and you may simply come to the monitor's tent when you

arrive to be scheduled. There are 5 new names to be added this year, and there will be a Memorial Day Service following the readings at approximately 11:30.

- MAY 27 East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony at 2 p.m. at the cemetery at John Sevier location. Guest Speaker Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs
- JUN 15 Honor Air Virtual Flight for veterans unable to make the flight to Washington DC. The event will be held at the Bridgewater Event Center. Doors open at 0900 and the flight will depart at 1000. Applications may be found at <https://www.honorairknoxville.com/> . Completed applications should be sent to Jan Rector at jrector@honorairknoxville.com, or call 865/859-9279 and leave a voice mail if you wish an application to be mailed to you.
- JUN 22 Athens Area Chamber of Commerce 13th Annual Benefit. Special guest will be President George W. Bush. Details at www.athenschamber.org or call at 423/745-0334.
- JUN 24 Second Annual TVBA Golf Tournament at Green Meadow Country Club. Details will be available on their website: <https://gotvba.com/>
- By JUN 30 Shop with Impact. Help to drive Veteran homelessness to ZERO. \$25 donation with **100%** of proceeds to identify where veterans are on streets in 12 county region. <https://tvchomeless.org/our-shop/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TVCHomeless/> Instagram: @TVCHomeless
- OCT 4-6 Saving Families Marriage Retreat for Military and First Responders. The fee is \$300 to cover lodging and meals. Registration may be submitted online at <http://servingmarriages.com/retreats.htm>.
- OCT 19 SAVE the DATE - Vietnam Veterans of America #1078 Veteran's Picnic at Chilhowee Park. <https://vva.org/chapter/vva-chapter-1078/>
- Every WED Combat Coffee Hour (Black Rifle Coffee Company <https://www.blackriflecoffee.com/>) for all Veterans, 7:30-8:30am at the Knoxville Vet Center, 1645 Downtown West Blvd #28

For a complete listing of events, visit <http://www.etmac.org> and click events

ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, **May 2, 2019**, 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. President **Owen Ragland** presided over the meeting. A total number of **69** were present.
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 - **Joshua Dixon- Navy Recruiter with the Naval Center on Alcoa Hwy**
 - **Rick Waltman – TVA Veteran Association**
 - **Michael Hensley – Senator Marsha Blackburn's office**
 - **Pat Gibson – Congressman Burchett's office**
 - **Claude Mapp – Learning RX**
- **President's Report – Owen Ragland** Welcome! Minutes from April are approved.

- **Dr. Todd White** with the Brewing and Distilling Center gave an update that the GI Bill should begin covering their course in time for fall classes. An interesting fact he shared is that the presence of a craft brewer is one of the main things people search for when looking for a new community. <https://www.brewinganddistillingcenter.com/>
 - **Webmaster's Report Col Dent Young**- Last month our website had 475 visitors, mostly looking for veteran services, and most visitors were from the US.
 - **Chris DeFranco** gave an update for Hardship Hill. There are 180 currently signed up and hoping for 200. Proceeds go toward Operation Enduring Warrior. F3Knoville is a supporter. Details are in the event section.
 - **Treasurer's Report: Owen Ragland reporting or Treasurer Derren Burrell** –
 - o Start balance \$ 15,852.30
 - o Deposits \$ 321.00
 - o Expenses \$ 579.95
 - o End balance \$ 15,593.35
- Membership dues may be paid online <https://www.etmac.org/resources/etmac-resources/membership-application/> or bring check to Patrice Collins at the next meeting. Donations are also appreciated.
- **Other ETMAC Announcements - Patrice Collins** – www.ETMAC.org Patrice announced a couple of events going on over the weekend. They are listed in the event section.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard** – **Joseph Westfall- no report**
- **119th Cyberspace Operations Squadron** – **MSgt Kent Vanover – unable to attend**
- **1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion** – **CPT Hulon Holmes** – Troops in motion. 82nd Airborne aviation units have been here doing mountain training. They will have significant training going on this summer. Part of that will be working with FEMA on their rescue skills for disasters.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing** – **Lt Col Travers Hurst** - Just finished Unit Effectiveness Inspection and did well. Summer trips coming up in several locations for training.
- **241st Engineering & Installation Squadron (Chattanooga)** **Lt Col Dave Moss – unable to attend**
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment** – **LTC Steve Turner** - Just began 2 days ago. Troops in motion.
- **332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron** – **TSgt Brandon Carver – unable to attend**
- **489th Civil Affairs Battalion** – **unable to attend**
- **844th Engineering Battalion** – **MAJ Justin Belford – unable to attend**
- **Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region** – **AET1 Christopher Rapp – unable to attend**
- **Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion** – **Capt Cullen Tores – unable to attend**

- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – Lt Col Green– Change of Command on May 31. Col Lovely handing command over to Col Kenneth Lozano. Airmen are coming from all over the country to their center for training.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – CPT Patrick Conner – unable to attend
- Military Entrance Processing Station – Capt Ethan Frazier – Change of Command on June 14. Introduced their Test Control Officer who is a former Marine Gunny.
- Navy Operational Support Center – CDR Kevin Settle – unable to attend
- Navy Recruiting – Talent Acquisition Onboarding Center – HM2 Josh Dixon - nothing to report
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – Col Dent Young – Southeast region will begin rotating aircraft through Puerto Rico to save maintenance costs. It's very expensive to maintain aircraft in Puerto Rico. FEMA has asked CAP to photo images of all of Puerto Rico for baseline data for future hurricanes. They will use WALDO high resolution cameras and some of the imagery will be 3D Orthorectified to provide simulation of ground-level views. The Tennessee Wing will hold its annual summer cadet encampment and Cadet Aviation Ground School on the campus of the IG Brown Training and Education Center. They expect 175 cadets for the encampment and 25 for the ground school. Cadets who successfully complete ground school will be eligible for a flight scholarship to complete their private pilot's license.
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – Div. CDR Ron Boneau – unable to attend
- UT Air Force ROTC – Lt Col Matt “Ocho” Castillo - unable to attend
- UT Army ROTC - LTC Justin Howe –FB: <https://www.facebook.com/UTKAmyROTC/> -. They will have fifteen cadets commissioning on the 11th of May at the Student Center and thirteen will be commissioning in August. All are welcome to attend the ceremony. Their Military Ball was a great success and will be held next year on UT's campus.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – Joe Sutter – The 2nd round of testing for Cyber Security for seniors will be held on May 23rd and 30th at the Strang Center.
https://secure.afa.org/contact_links.asp?searchby=state&stabbr=TN&ent=chapter
- Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA Chapter 479) – Mike Gates –Membership is now open to anyone from any branch of the service that has ever worn a uniform. This chapter is the first to elect a family member as chapter president and it is his wife Joan Gates.
- American Job Center / State of TN Department of Labor – David Webb – US unemployment is at 3.9%, State of Tennessee is at 3.2%, the Knoxville area is at 2.9% while Knoxville proper is at 2.6%, They continue to have job fairs regularly.
<https://www.careeronestop.org/ResourcesFor/Veteran/veteran.aspx>
- American Legion – Patrice Collins- legionknox.com
FB:<https://www.facebook.com/Post2Knoxville/> - Memorial Day Ceremony at the East TN Veterans Memorial on May 27 immediately following the Annual ETVMA Reading of the Names. Currently raising funds for new Legion home. Please donate on their website.

- American Red Cross – **Jess Hernandez** - <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossTN/> - **nothing to report**
- Ben Atchley Veteran's Home – **Doug Ottinger** – <http://www.tsvh.org/>
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TSVHS/> - **nothing to report**
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – **Gary Ellis**
<http://www.vva1078.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/vvachapter1078knoxville/> Meet 2nd
Tuesday evening. They have 300 members and are in the top 25 chapters in the country. Still
looking for veterans that want to socialize.
- Disabled Veterans Chapter #24 -**Garrett Hanas** <https://www.dav.org> FB-
<https://www.facebook.com/davchapter24/> National just finished winter games in Colorado.
TVA is a finalist for the DAV's Commander's Award
- East Tennessee Veteran's Honor Guard- **Herb Kraehmer** – **Unable to attend**
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association- **Patrice Collins**- <https://etvma.org/> Fb
<https://www.facebook.com/ETVMA/>- they will be holding the annual Reading of Names on
Memorial Day. Details are in the event section.
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) – **Jim Mungenast**
<https://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Tennessee> FB:
<https://www.facebook.com/Tennessee-ESGR-171685266196286/> - Currently, there are 39,500
Guard and Reservists activated. There will be a Boss Lift on May 9 with the 134th. May 31 -
June 1 will be the State Annual Planning and Awards Banquet. Both HCA and Cracker Barrel
are finalists for the Freedom Award. They are currently working on making changes to
USERRA because the needs of Guard and Reservists have changed since the law was put in
place.
- Honor Air –**Joe Sutter** - <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/honorair/> - Flight #28 took place on April 10, 2019. The flight
included five WW2 vets and among those was a 97-year-old Navy WAVE. There will be a
virtual flight on June 15. Details are in the event section.
- Knoxville Habitat for Heroes – **Rick Garner** <https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleHabitatforHumanity/> - They have a job
opening for a truck driver. Please email your resume to nelder@khfh.com.
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – **Emily Hager** - <http://tnvhc.org/> – Emily
gave information on the jewelry sale benefiting the Women's Veteran Summit. Details are in
the event section. Also, they have 20 scholarships available for QPR Instructor training in June.
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – **Tom Humphries**
<https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - email: thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org or call
865-215-5645. Thanks to all that came out to clean headstones last month. They will be placing
flags at the State Veteran Cemeteries on May 25th for Memorial Day.
- Knoxville Vet Center –**Lyle Allen** - <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/> -The Vet Center is
celebrating its 40th anniversary with an open house on June 14. Details to follow.
- Marine Corps League – **Eric Nash** <http://www.mclknox.org/> Mud Run coming up in 5 months.
They are adding obstacles including two more mud pits, and it will be over three miles long.
Eric talked about a program called Vets 4 Warriors. It's a suicide prevention hotline and the

phone number is 855/838-8255. They will be participating in the Secret City Festival's Tolling of the Boat's Ceremony.

- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) – **Bill Potter** - www.moaa.org - **unable to attend.**
- Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) – **Bill Grieve** www.moww.org – All are invited to their meeting on the second Wednesday of the month. This month the former commander of the Seawolf will be the speaker. ROA held their State Department meeting last week.
- Mountain Man Memorial March- **Patrice Collins** –<http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/>
LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMountainManMemorialMarch/> - Great event; they had 900 participants including 80 Gold Star Families. There were also 200 volunteers.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing –**Cindy LeMarr** - <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>
LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersKnoxville/> - **unable to attend.**
- REBOOT Combat Recovery –**Michael Simpson** – <https://rebootalliance.com/reboot>
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/rebootrecovery/> - Reboot is a Faith-Based Combat Trauma Recovery 12-week Program that provides practical help for service members and families dealing with the after effects of combat. 11 years of Reboot. There are 140 locations around the country and there have been no suicides from the attendees. They are finishing up the spring sessions and will start up again in the fall.
- Rolling Thunder – **Carlos Hollifield** - <http://www.rollingthundern3.com/index.php/about-tn3/>
- meet on 2nd Sunday of every month, 3:30 at the Community Center, 11708 West Emory Road, Powell, TN 37849. At their Open House they held a Blessing of the Bikes which also became a Baptism of the bikes on April 12 (poured down rain). Through the open house, they met a veteran they were able to get into temporary housing. This past Sunday on their ride, they were replacing a flag at the Visitor center in Kentucky and happened to meet a 92-year-old veteran who had stopped at the Visitor center. They had him raise the new flag and gave him the retired one.
- STAR – Horses & Hero's Program – **Cathy Dolson** - <https://www.rideatstar.org/heroes--horses.html> - Wrapping up Spring session, will begin Summer sessions the second week of June.
- Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless- **Brandon Harris** – <https://tvhomeless.org/>
They are hosting a fishing tournament on May 11. Details are on their website.
- Tennessee Veterans Business Associations (TVBA) – **Patrice Collins** (865) 414-2000 – <https://gotvba.com/> - They will be having their annual golf tournament at Green Meadow on June 24. Details to follow.
- United Veterans Council – **Janet Guess** – They hold a veteran breakfast each Saturday somewhere in the area. The first Saturday each month, it will be held at the Elks Club on Lonas. The second Saturday it is held in Anderson County. Contact Buzz Buzzwell for that location. The third Saturday is at Powell Community Center, and the fourth is at DAV in Oliver Springs. They are raising money for Wreaths Across America and will be at several Food City stores on Flag Day Weekend. Details to follow. Remembering Our Fallen, Tennessee display is available for veteran events.
- UT Army ROTC Alumni Council – **Geoff Freeman** – http://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955 –

April very busy. They gave three scholarships out at the Military Ball. They have an annual golf tournament to fund the scholarships. This year has been rescheduled for June 22 and will be held at Egwani Farms. Their Alumni group participated in the MMMM and their participants were all over the age of 60. They completed a half marathon.

- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – **Patty McGrew** –<http://veteransheritagesite.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHeritageSiteFoundation/> They are helping with the Wreaths Across America events on Flag Day Weekend. Annual meeting on June 8 at Sharps Ridge from 12-2. They will be having a picnic, and all are invited. They have their plan completed for the Ridge and you can see what it will look like at the picnic.
- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down –**Ivette Torres** <https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn> –**unable to attend.**
- Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – **Stephanie Trost** - unable to attend. <http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/> - They will be having a fundraiser in August. A Farm-to-Table event that will include craft beer.

**Next meeting: Thursday, June 6, 2019
@ Knoxville Chamber at 8:30am**

**For input or corrections, please contact Kim Spencer
865/691-0898 or kim@nallssherbakoff.com**

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